THE Crusaders

VOL. 8

J.T.C.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR ADULTS AND TEENS.

THE GIFT

THE GIFT
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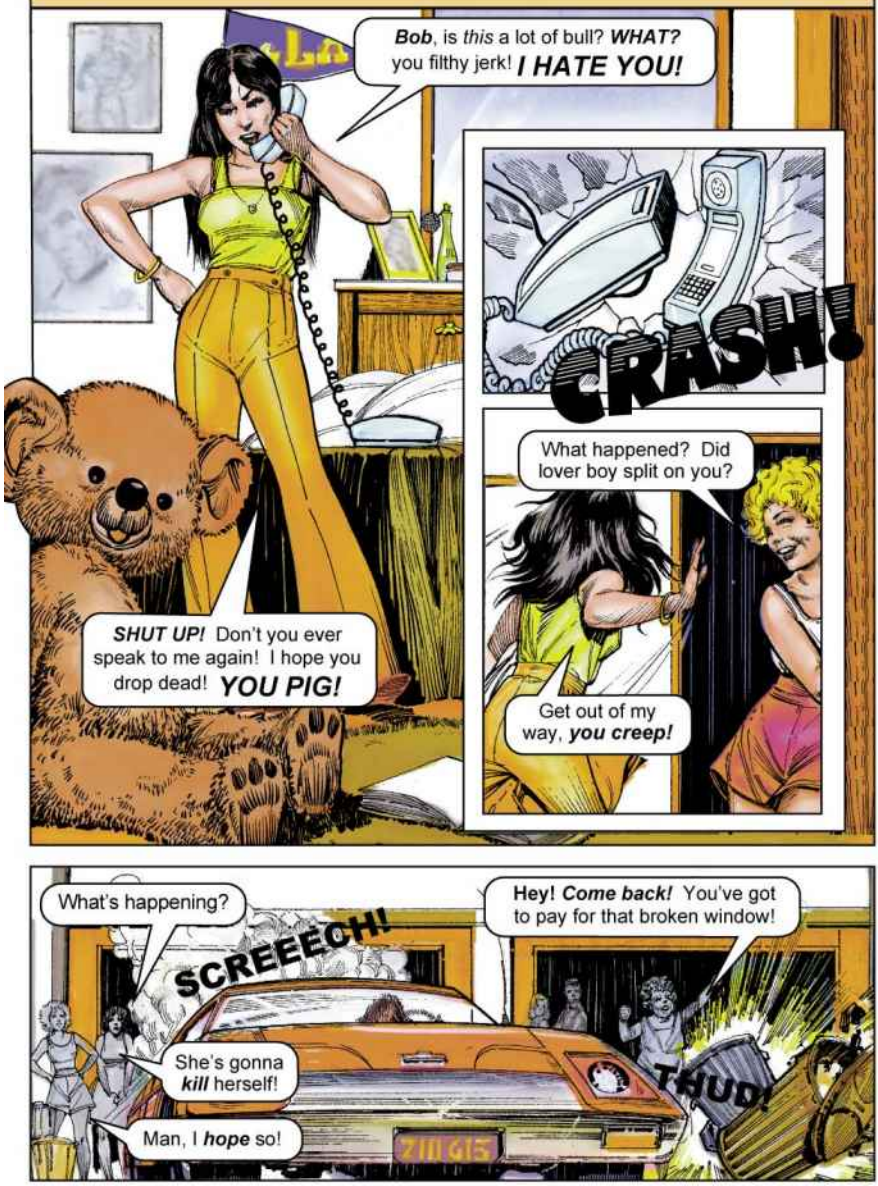
"THE GIFT"

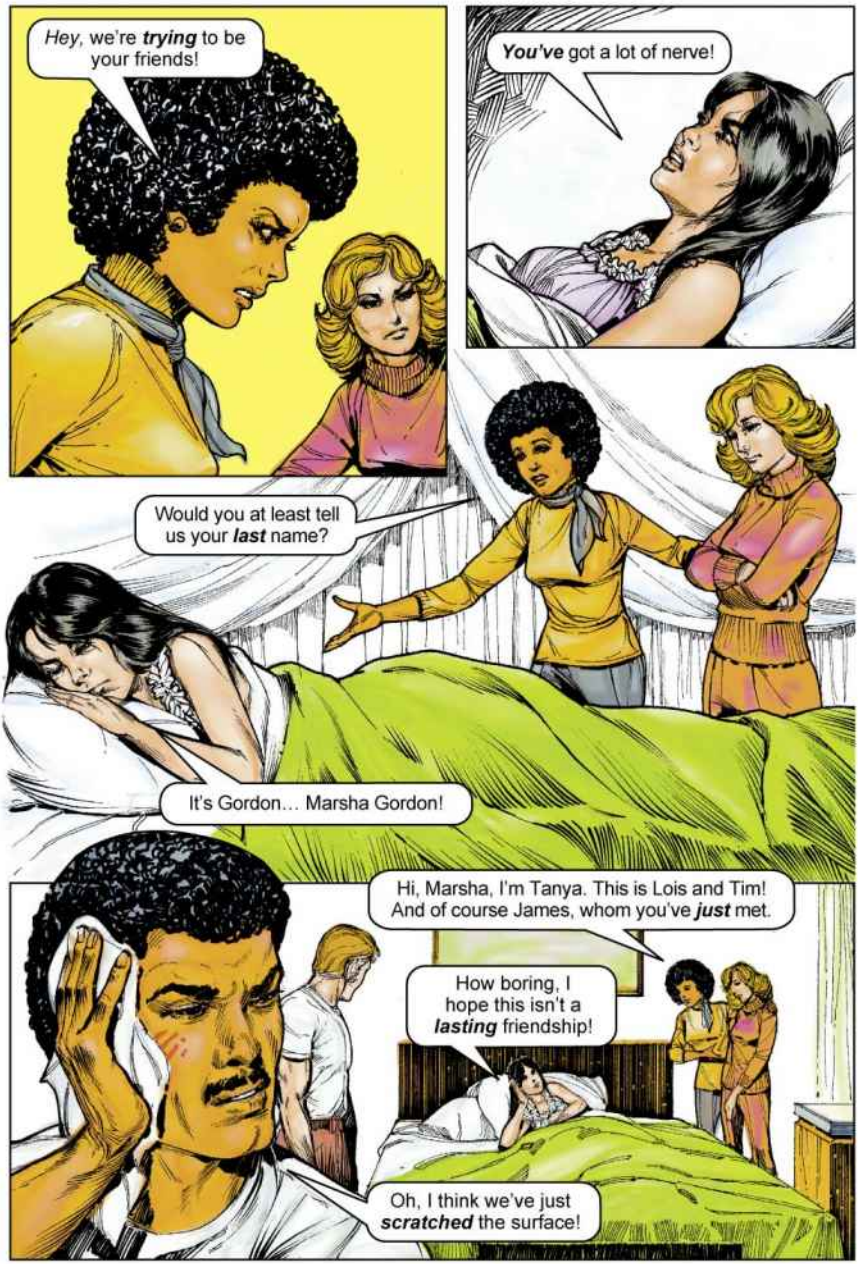

Bob, is *this* a lot of bull? **WHAT?** you filthy jerk! ***I HATE YOU!***
SHUT UP! Don't you ever speak to me again! I hope you drop dead! ***YOU PIG!***
CRASH!
What happened? Did lover boy split on you?
Get out of my way, ***you creep!***
What's happening?
SCREEECH!
She's gonna ***kill*** herself!
Man, I ***hope*** so!
Hey! *Come back!* You've got to pay for that broken window!
THUD!

I can't believe **anyone** in this rotten world!
First mom and dad get a divorce!
And now I'm gonna be kicked out of school.
Just because that **lousy** physiology professor won't give me a passing grade!
And to top it off, my precious fiancé, who told me to **trust** him...
calls me up to tell me he **married** his old girl friend in Michigan!
What's the use?
Nobody wants me...
(sob) I... I can't **fight** it anymore!

Gentlemen, the dinner was delicious!
It was our pleasure... *treasure!*
Jim and I are loaded today, so we ***won't*** go Dutch!
You have only one fault. Tim, you're ***too*** kind!
Let's go back this way, OK?
Good, I want to buy a little something for my mother.
No one will miss me!
Jim, did you see that girl's face?
No Tanya, I didn't.
She's in trouble. Maybe we should talk to her!
I can't stand it anymore!
She ***jumped!***
Tim, she'll ***drown!***
Let's ***go,*** man!

One minute later…
I can't find her!
I'll try over here!
There she is!
Good work, Jim!

Thank God, Tanya's a nurse!
Don't worry, the Lord won't let her die!
She's going to be OK!
Let's get her to my place.
Tanya Robinson's home
She can rest now.
I just noticed both of you've been cut by barnacles. Come on, I'm going to treat you before you get infections.
4 hours later
Who... who saved my life?
Jim did.
Thanks for *nothing!*
RIP!
Ungh!


Hey, we're **trying** to be your friends!
You've got a lot of nerve!
Would you at least tell us your **last** name?
It's Gordon… Marsha Gordon!
Hi, Marsha, I'm Tanya. This is Lois and Tim! And of course James, whom you've **just** met.
How boring, I hope this isn't a **lasting** friendship!
Oh, I think we've just **scratched** the surface!

Here's some good hot soup. *This* will make you feel better.
What's in it, Aunt Jemima? Hog jowls and turnip greens?
Man, oh man!
You'd go *great* in our State Department, Marsha!
Marsha, you *can't* get to me. I *love* you!
Wow! Now I'm stuck with a lesbian!
That's cruel, Marsha! We're all Christians here!
We're *trying* to help you!
So *that's* it! A bunch of fanatics playing hero, and *now* you're gonna try and shove a Bible down my throat!
Well, it *won't* work!! Because you can't prove *anything* by one book! And the Bible *is* only one book!
It *isn't* one book!
Wannah bet?
You're on!

The Bible is a total of 66 books, Marsha! They were written over a period of 2000 years…
By men from all walks of life, from kings to slaves.
Each writer had **one** thing in common. Each one had an experience with a Being…
who calls Himself the eternal God, Creator of the universe and Saviour of mankind.
This will blow your mind, Marsha. All 66 books overlap or refer to each other.
Now, what are the chances of **that** happening? About one trillion to one.
Try to get 5 guys to agree on **anything** today. You **can't!**
The Bible is a miracle book! All 66 books of it!
OK! *OK! Big deal!* So you **proved** a point!

Marsha, consider *this* your home until you're ready to leave.
Praise de Lawd!
I found a *midnight* mission!
Soup's on! Come and get it!
You going to join us, Marsha?
Why not?
Thank you, Father, for this food, in Jesus' name.
Sigh!
Excuse me Tanya. May I *please* say a few words of prayer?
Why of course, Marsha, please do.
O mighty *god of fire*, thank you for lighting this cigarette, and for cooking this meal. And I almost forgot, the *sun god* for growing the coffee bean for this cup of mountain grown coffee!
Wow! How do we handle *this?*

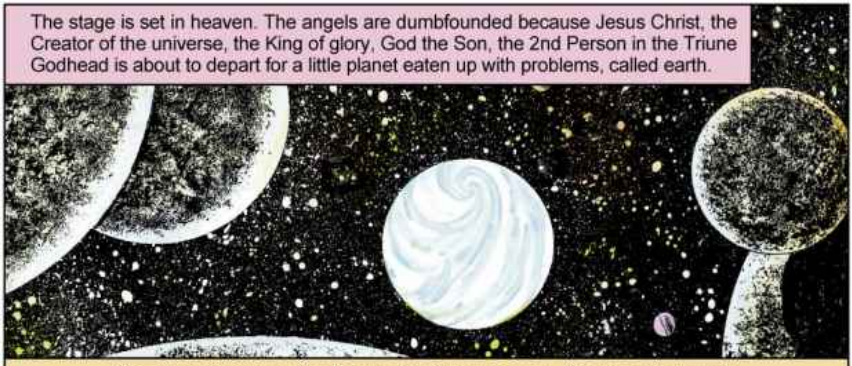
Tanya, have you got a beer in the refrig?
No, honey, we *don't* drink.
Would you send Jim out to the liquor store to buy one for me?
How about a bottle of Michelob to celebrate my being alive?
Why are you *always* trying to guilt induce me, Marsha?
Because in *my* book, you're *all* a bunch of *self-righteous hypocrites!*
Praying and trying your best to make points with me. Let me tell you sister, *I hate religion!*
We *can't* do that, Marsha.
Aha! You lied to me, Tanya!
You said you *loved* me. If you *really* loved me you'd do what I asked you to do! You're a *lousy* Christian!

Well, at least you've got *something* in common with Jesus!
What could I have in common with *Him?*
He hates religion as much as *you* do!
What do you know about Him, Marsha?
It's sort of fuzzy… uh… He was a little kid born on Christmas, you know… the Santa Claus bit…
And He died on Easter… I *don't* know what the bunny has to do with it… I guess that's about as much as *I* know about it!
Can I tell you the greatest love story ever written?
It's about the Creator of the universe and *you,* Marsha.
I could use a love story about now!

"Marsha, there was a time in history when God cut off all communications with His chosen people, the Jews! They were rebellious; they ignored His laws, so He allowed them to suffer under the heavy hand of the Roman Empire."

"400 years had passed by since God had spoken to the children of Israel (the Jews). Those who loved the Lord were heartbroken."

The stage is set in heaven. The angels are dumbfounded because Jesus Christ, the Creator of the universe, the King of glory, God the Son, the 2nd Person in the Triune Godhead is about to depart for a little planet eaten up with problems, called earth.



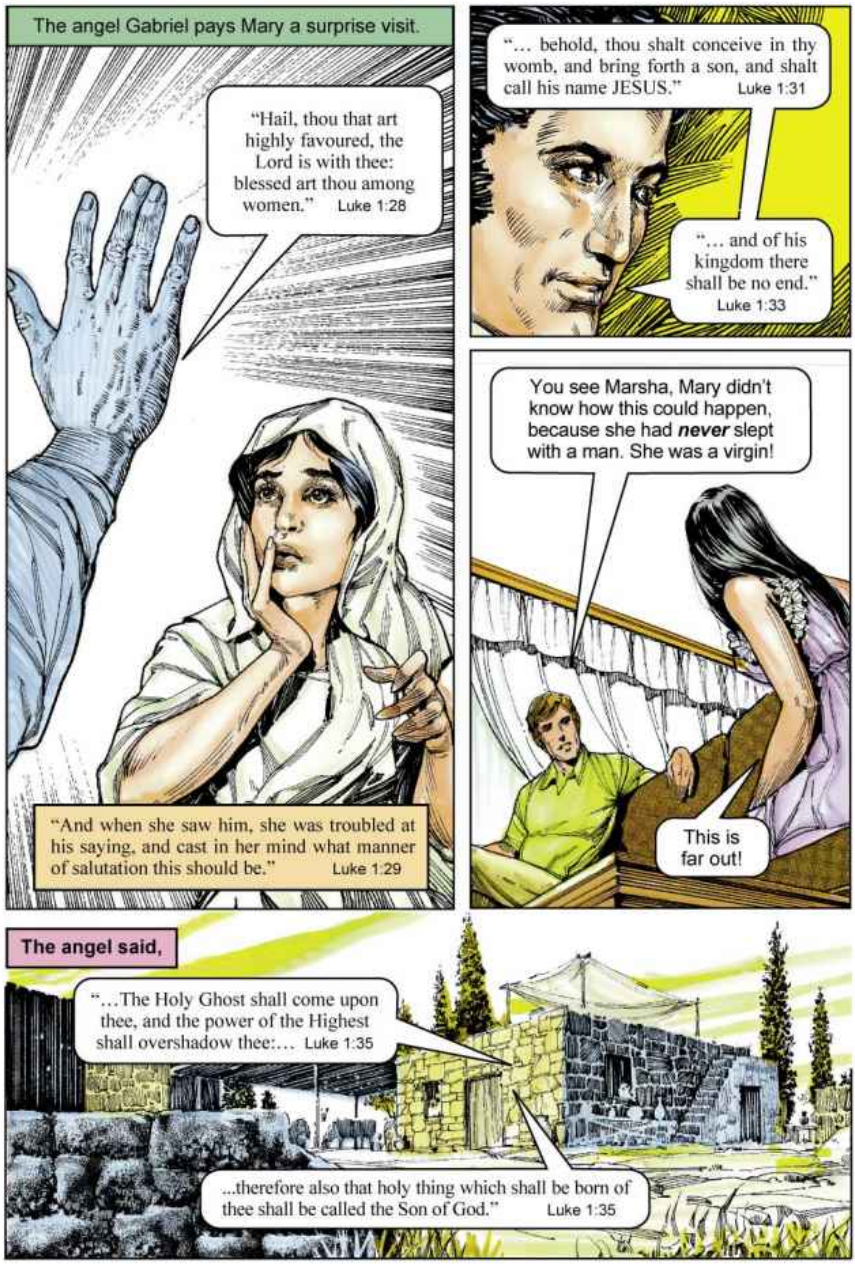
Our planet becomes the focal point of the universe. All eyes are upon it.

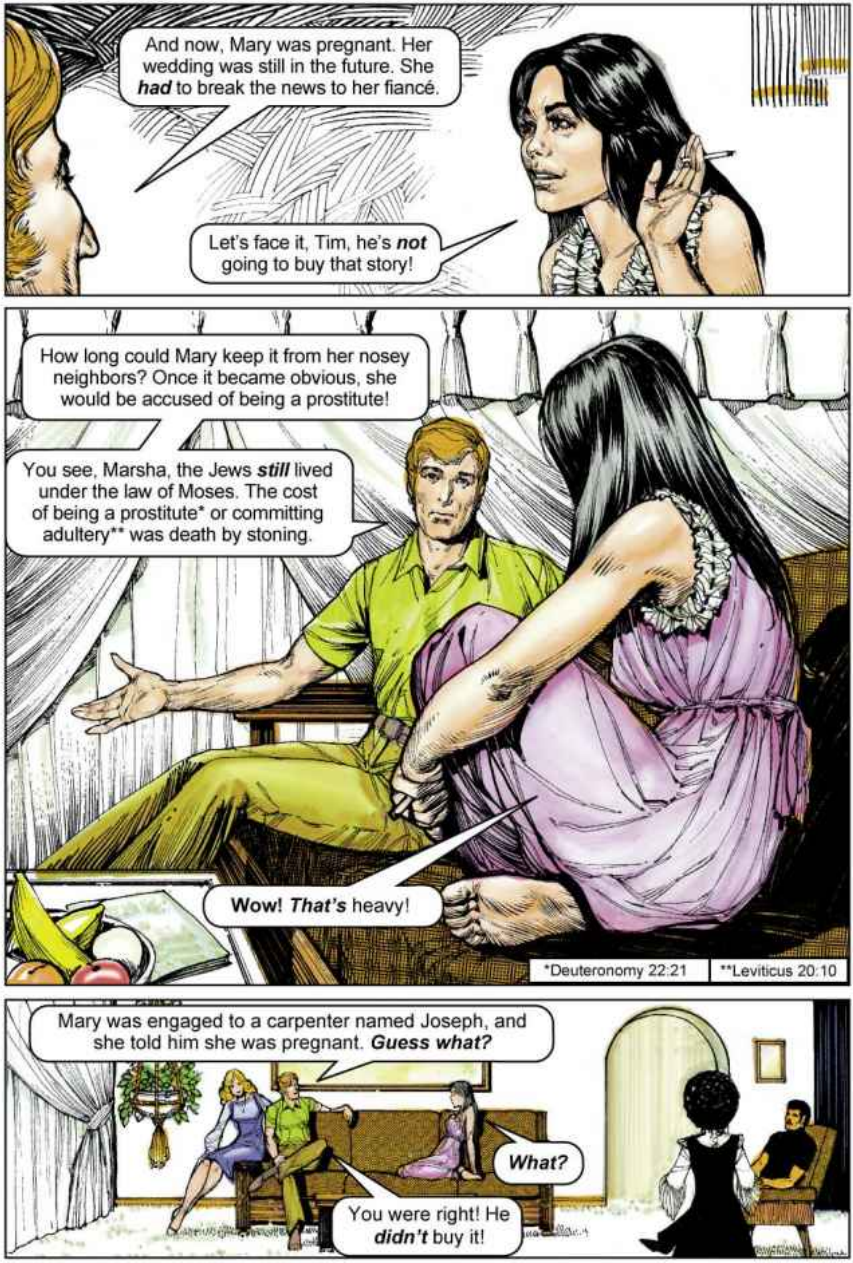
The angel, Gabriel, goes before the Lord.* As he approaches earth, he enters Satan's territory and is spotted by the powers of darkness.

His destination is an insignificant little town called Nazareth, about 68 miles north of Jerusalem.

A little virgin about to be married is completely unaware that ***she*** is the target.

What is about to happen to Mary will change the course of human history.


The angel Gabriel pays Mary a surprise visit.
"Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." Luke 1:28
"And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be." Luke 1:29
"… behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." Luke 1:31
"… and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:33
You see Marsha, Mary didn't know how this could happen, because she had never slept with a man. She was a virgin!
This is far out!
The angel said,
"…The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee:… Luke 1:35
...therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35


And now, Mary was pregnant. Her wedding was still in the future. She *had* to break the news to her fiancé.
Let's face it, Tim, he's *not* going to buy that story!
How long could Mary keep it from her nosey neighbors? Once it became obvious, she would be accused of being a prostitute!
You see, Marsha, the Jews *still* lived under the law of Moses. The cost of being a prostitute* or committing adultery** was death by stoning.
Wow! *That's* heavy!
*Deuteronomy 22:21
**Leviticus 20:10
Mary was engaged to a carpenter named Joseph, and she told him she was pregnant. *Guess what?*
What?
You were right! He *didn't* buy it!

The angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream.* *Matthew 1:20

"... fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost...

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." *Matthew 1:20, 21

"Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife..." Matthew 1:24

That problem was taken care of!

Satan makes his first attempt to take the baby's life.

Why not tax the whole world?

What a ***great*** idea!

Caesar Augustus orders all subjects to return to their birthplace for taxation.

This means Mary must travel with Joseph to Bethlehem, the city of his birth, a grueling 90 mile journey over rugged terrain, and Mary is heavy with child.

Satan ***didn't*** get his wish. The sure footed donkey gets her safely to Bethlehem.

Bethlehem was jammed with people. The only place Joseph could find was a manger. There was no room in the inn, no one suspected who this child really was.

WAAAAAHH!

It's a boy!

Here's a mind blower! The Creator of the universe, Jehovah,* in the form of a little boy, was born in a smelly stable in Bethlehem.

**"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."* John 1:10

THIS WAS PHASE ONE OF HIS MISSION TO THIS PLANET!

Were mighty Caesar in Rome or the religious intellectuals in Jerusalem told about what had just taken place? *Nope!*
"Unto you is born this day in the city of David (Bethlehem) a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
What's that?
I'm losing my mind!
(Gulp)... They're angels!
The only ones who got the word were poor, ragged shepherds tending their sheep.* It almost scared them to death.
*Luke 2:11
The angel told them they would find the babe lying in a manger.
They hurried to Bethlehem.
SNIF!
And became the first visitors to meet the King of kings.
Outta sight!! The *first* Christmas! Uh, Tim, *where* were the three wise men?
They *didn't* show up!
They what???

Eight days later, the baby is circumcised, according to the Law of Moses. *Then* they called His name Jesus!
Why *exactly* on the 8th day? Why not the 4th or 5th day?
Tanya, you're a nurse. Can *you* tell us why?
OK, would you believe it took almost 2,000 years to find the answer?
In 1946-1947, medical specialists made an amazing discovery...
Human blood needs certain elements to clot.* One is called *prothrombin*, which needs vitamin K to form it. On the 8th day of a new born male...
vitamin K reaches its normal amount. On the same day prothrombin skyrockets to 110% efficiency, making it the *perfect* time for circumcision.
*Dr. Gerald H. Bradley.
So *that's* what keeps the baby from heavy bleeding when the surgery is performed?
That's right, Jim.
God doesn't make any mistakes.

33 days after the baby Jesus was circumcised, his mother, Mary, goes to the great Jewish temple in Jerusalem.* *Leviticus 12:3,4

To fulfill one more law set by Moses, the sacrifice of two turtledoves as a sin offering.*
*Exodus 13:2, 12, 13 — Leviticus 12:8

No other woman on earth has been given the honor that Mary was given.

She was God's chosen vessel; her family line was a royal one going back to King David! Why would Mary, of all people, be involved with a sin offering?

Because the Bible says…

- *"There is none righteous, no, not one."* Romans 3:10
- *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God…"* Romans 3:23

The only person the Bible refers to ***without*** sin, is the Lord Jesus.

- *"(Jesus) who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth."* *1 Peter 2:22*

And so, being a faithful servant of the Lord, Mary fulfilled her obligation.* *Luke 2:39

That's all very interesting, but where in the world were those wise men?

Somewhere in Mesopotamia looking at a star!

Wise men from the East saw a strange star in the heavens and they followed it to the city of Jerusalem.* *Matt. 2:1,2

Hey, that's the three wise men, Melchior, Gaspar and Belthasar!

That's a lot of baloney, Marsha

That manger display you see every Christmas with the wise men isn't true! It's tradition, and tradition is unreliable!

The Bible doesn't say *three* wise men. It doesn't give a number!

Remember, it said ***all*** Jerusalem was troubled when they entered the city!

It must have been a big caravan for it to pass safely through those crime infested deserts.

They shook up King Herod by asking him, "Where is he that is born king of the Jews?"* *Matt. 2:2

We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him!

Herod is worried. He ***now*** has competition!

He orders his religious experts to check the Scriptures and find out what city the Christ or Messiah would be born in.

We found it, your Majesty, in the book of Micah.*

What city?

In Bethlehem!

Now I've ***got*** to find out when they first saw the star.

*Micah 5:2

Herod finds out the date. That would make Jesus about 18 months old.

"Go and search diligently for the young child and when you have found him...

bring me word again that I might come and worship him also."*

Isn't it strange that none of the religious phonies wanted to see this incredible thing? God Almighty actually dwelling in a little boy? They couldn't care less! *Matt. 2:8

Once outside the palace, the Wise men again spotted the star. It guided them to the **HOUSE** where Jesus was living.* *(Matthew 2:9)

They fell down and worshiped **JESUS** only! They presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)

Joseph, we had a dream.* We were told ***not*** to return to Herod.

So we are going home by a different route.

I understand.

*Matthew 2:12

The next night Joseph is awakened from a dream. He knows Herod wants to kill little Jesus.

They pack up and leave the same night for Egypt. (Matthew 2:13,14)

Herod finds out that the wise men are gone. He is furious.* Satan now moves again to murder Jesus.

Blast it! I've been tricked!

Herod, kill the children in Bethlehem. This way your sons will rule Israel!

That's what I'll do!

*Matthew 2:16

On orders from their king, Herod's soldiers ride for Bethlehem to butcher all children two years old and younger.

The people of this little unsuspecting city have no idea of the horror about to hit their homes.

The innocent babes are slaughtered without mercy.* Screams of anguish are heard for weeks. *Matthew 2:16-18

*No… **No!***
***Don't** do this!*
*Not my **baby!***

Yaaahh!
NOOOo!
Please!

WAAAHH!

This was the fulfillment of the prophecy by Jeremiah. "In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not." Matthew 2:18

At the age of 12, Jesus dumbfounded the Jewish doctors of religion in the big temple in Jerusalem.* *Luke 2:46, 47

How does ***this*** youth know so ***much*** about Jewish law?

It was easy, about 1500 years before that time, Jesus had given the Jewish law to Moses on Mt. Sinai.*

*Exodus 3:12, 13, 14; Exodus 20:2; John 8:58

Every year Jesus went to Jerusalem to watch the killing of the Passover lamb.

Baaahh!

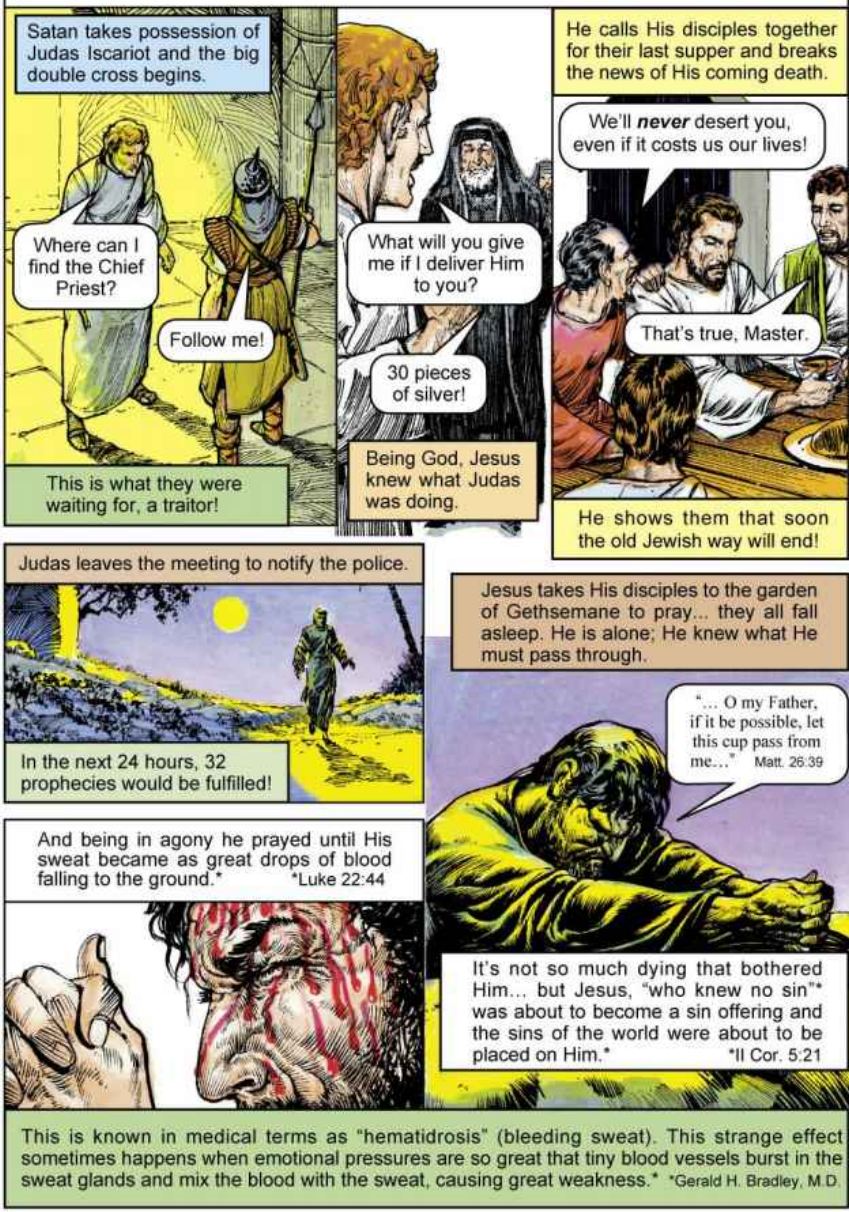
He knew that at the age of 33, He would become the Passover Lamb.

Hey, now I remember the Passover. I saw it on TV! It was "The Ten Commandments"!
God had to hit Egypt with all kinds of plagues, to free their Jewish slaves.
It was great! They all left Egypt with Charlton Heston!
It was Moses! He played the part of Moses!
Remember how God said He would kill the first born in every house in Egypt that wasn't protected by a sign?
I forgot.
It was the blood of a lamb that had to be put on the front door to save those inside.
Yeah, and that night the death angel went through Egypt.
Wrong, Marsha, it was the Lord.* When He saw the blood, He passed over the house and they missed God's judgment. *Exodus 12:29
Ohh, no! Look, he's dying!
Eeeeehh... He's dead! My son is dead!
Yaaaaah!
That's why every year the Jews celebrate the Passover, to remember that night.
Why would Jesus have to become a Passover Lamb?
Because of you.

Watch carefully how Jesus is introduced by John the Baptist.
"...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29
This is phase two of His visit to this planet.
After being baptized in the River Jordan, Jesus spends 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by the devil.
"...Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Matt. 4:10
The devil is put in his place!
12 disciples are chosen.
He works with them for 3 years.
Jesus healed the sick, cast out demons and raised some from the dead. He taught the people a new way to live.
Love thy neighbor as thyself!
In a time of occupation by ruthless Roman soldiers, a bitter population eaten up with hate, fear and corruption, wonders who this person is who speaks of love.
This charming, trustworthy and honest looking disciple became the treasurer.
Hello, there!
He is Judas Iscariot, the number one traitor of all time.

Here's the picture, Marsha.
And it's an ugly one!
King Herod, "The Great," the monster who tried to kill Jesus by murdering all the babies in Bethlehem, finally died, and nobody cried.
King Herod will eventually stand before his Creator on judgment day to give an account for his life. What a shock when he discovers his judge will be Jesus Christ Himself.*
*John 5:22
These two ran Jerusalem (under Rome's direction). Both were very powerful and wealthy. They controlled the corrupt religious machine…
Caiaphas, the High Priest
Annas had been the High Priest and Caiaphas owed him favors. As long as no one made waves, they would stay in power.
Annas (his father-in-law)
But Someone did make waves!
One of their rackets was in the great Jewish temple. They sold doves and lambs for sacrifice and exchanged Roman money at a fat profit.
Make not my Father's house a house of merchandise!
Jesus threw the money changers out of the temple! It didn't set too well.
He then exposed them as hypocrites to the public.
You generation of vipers (snakes)!
He blasts them as being a bunch of fools, liars, phonies and murderers!
Guess who they put on their death list?

PHASE III: JESUS IS READY TO BECOME THE PASSOVER LAMB


Satan takes possession of Judas Iscariot and the big double cross begins.
Where can I find the Chief Priest?
Follow me!
This is what they were waiting for, a traitor!
What will you give me if I deliver Him to you?
30 pieces of silver!
Being God, Jesus knew what Judas was doing.
He calls His disciples together for their last supper and breaks the news of His coming death.
We'll never desert you, even if it costs us our lives!
That's true, Master.
He shows them that soon the old Jewish way will end!
Judas leaves the meeting to notify the police.
In the next 24 hours, 32 prophecies would be fulfilled!
Jesus takes His disciples to the garden of Gethsemane to pray... they all fall asleep. He is alone; He knew what He must pass through.
"... O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me..." Matt. 26:39
And being in agony he prayed until His sweat became as great drops of blood falling to the ground.* *Luke 22:44
It's not so much dying that bothered Him... but Jesus, "who knew no sin"* was about to become a sin offering and the sins of the world were about to be placed on Him.* *II Cor. 5:21
This is known in medical terms as "hematidrosis" (bleeding sweat). This strange effect sometimes happens when emotional pressures are so great that tiny blood vessels burst in the sweat glands and mix the blood with the sweat, causing great weakness.* *Gerald H. Bradley, M.D.

The angels of God watch in utter shock as they see their Creator humiliated, tortured and murdered.

This way!

Satan is delighted. He's waited for centuries for the opportunity to destroy his greatest enemy. Judas sets Jesus up for the kill!

Judas brings the police; the signal is to arrest whomever Judas kisses.

Master!

That's him!

This is the kiss of death! He is arrested and His disciples, except two, take off in all directions.* *Matthew 26:56; John 18:15

Jesus is taken from place to place for questioning. They hold a quick trial in the dead of night.

Death to the blasphemer!

The Jewish supreme court (Sanhedrin) finds Him guilty even before the trial. It's a stacked deck!

Jesus is beaten and spit upon by the strong, armed men of...

He is a political hot potato.

Annas, Caiaphas and Herod (Antipas... the son of Herod the Great).

He is finally pushed off on the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.

Pilate doesn't want any part of this, but he's stuck. He says Jesus is innocent but to please the howling mob, he asks them this question...

What shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?

Crucify him!

Crucify him!

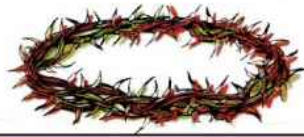
At this point 18 Jewish laws were broken so Jesus could be put to death.*

*"The Illegal Trial of Jesus," Earl Wingo, Chick Publications.

Marsha, do you ***know*** what a crucifixion was like?

I've seen little crucifixes, it didn't look so bad!

I'm going to show you how it ***really*** came down



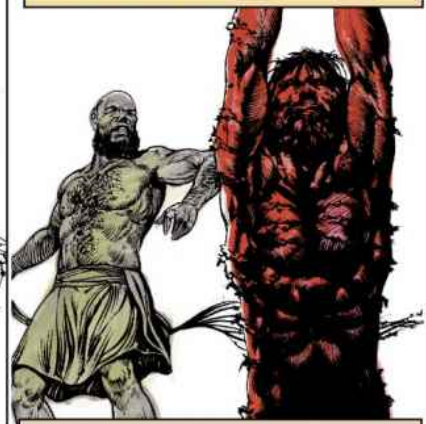
This is what they jammed on His head. It had thorns up to 6 inches long .

The leather whip usually had pieces of steel, balls of lead and sharp bones attached.

The rusty, germ-laden spikes almost always caused gangrene and tetanus to the victims.

Pontius Pilate orders Jesus scourged. (beaten)

The victim was usually stripped. His hands tied to an overhead beam.

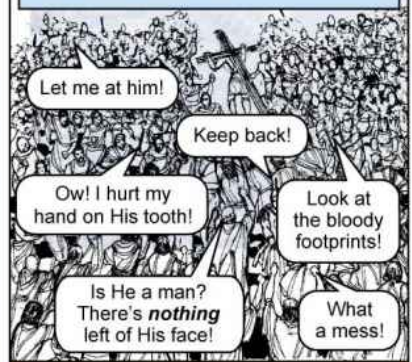


As the sharp bones and metal in the whip tore away the flesh, muscles were sliced wide open. The arteries would be hit, spurting blood. Most victims died from the beating alone.

His flesh is hanging in ribbons as He is ordered to carry a cross weighing over 100 pounds, 650 yards to the place of execution... (Golgotha). The rough wood gouged into His torn back. By now He was already dehydrated. The miracle was that He was still living.

"I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting." Isaiah 50:6

The prophet Isaiah said: "...His visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men." Isaiah 52:14


Let me at him!
Keep back!
Ow! I hurt my hand on His tooth!
Look at the bloody footprints!
Is He a man? There's ***nothing*** left of His face!
What a mess!

Satan summons his army of demons to Jerusalem. All of his evil power is unleashed against Jesus through the insane mob.

The angels in heaven stand by waiting for Jesus' order to attack, but His love for us held back the command.

Rusty spikes were driven amongst the carpal bones of the wrists instead of in the palms, because the weight of His body would have ripped away the flesh between His fingers.

In Rome they considered the wrist to be part of the hand.

He did this for *you,* Marsha.
I'm getting sick! It's ***horrible!***
It's the ***only*** way He could get you into heaven. They ***also*** nailed His feet.

"For God (the Father) so loved the world, (that's you) that he gave his only begotten Son (God the Son, Jesus), that whosoever believeth (clings to or trusts) in him should not perish (in the lake of fire), but have everlasting life (in heaven)." John 3:16

The Medical View of His Suffering!
Gerald H. Bradley, M.D.

This was the most agonizing death man could face. He had to support Himself in order to breathe. The flaming pain caused by the spikes hitting the median nerve in the wrists explodes up His arms, into His brain and down His spine.

The spike burning through the nerves between the metatarsal bones of the feet jerks His body erect, then the leg muscles convulse and drive His body downward, beating Him against the cross.

Air is sucked in, but cannot be exhaled until the buildup of carbon dioxide in the lungs and blood stream stimulates breathing to relieve the cramps.

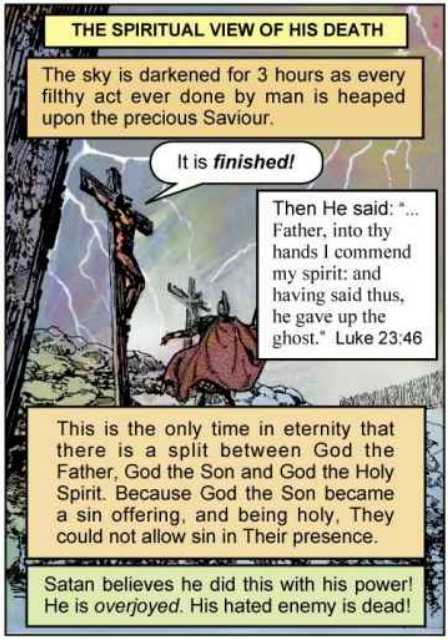
Exhaustion, shock, dehydration and paralysis destroy the victim.

The heart is barely able to pump the thick blood as each of His billions of cells die one at a time.

Prior to His death in all His agony, Jesus is in full control of His mind. He asks the heavenly Father to "...forgive them; for they know not what they do..."* And the dear Lamb of God was sacrificed for you.

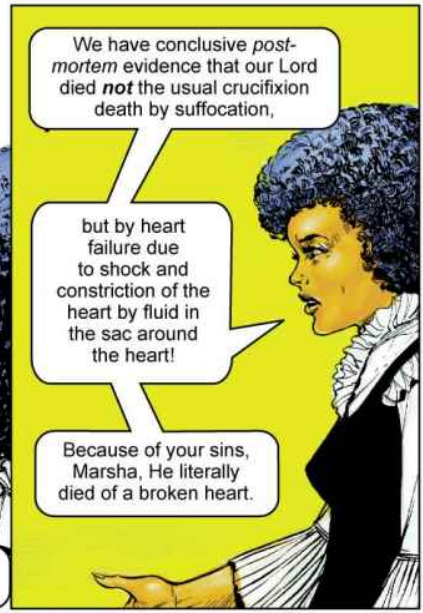
Finally in death the blood coagulates and separates into serum and clotted blood cells.

*Luke 23:34


THE SPIRITUAL VIEW OF HIS DEATH
The sky is darkened for 3 hours as every filthy act ever done by man is heaped upon the precious Saviour.
It is *finished!*
Then He said: "... Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." Luke 23:46
This is the only time in eternity that there is a split between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Because God the Son became a sin offering, and being holy, They could not allow sin in Their presence.
Satan believes he did this with his power! He is *overjoyed*. His hated enemy is dead!

Then an amazing thing happens in the temple in Jerusalem. The priceless 6-inch thick veil covering the Holy of Holies is ripped from top to bottom. Matt. 27:51
Yaaahh... is *this* the hand of God?
RIP!
This is the heart of the Jewish faith. Judaism was finished! Jesus said: "...I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*
*John 14:6

Hey, was he *really* dead? Or was it a set up?
I'm a nurse, Marsha. When the Roman soldier drove his lance up under the rib cage...
into the sac around the heart, water and blood came out! That only happens at death!


We have conclusive *post-mortem* evidence that our Lord died *not* the usual crucifixion death by suffocation,
but by heart failure due to shock and constriction of the heart by fluid in the sac around the heart!
Because of your sins, Marsha, He literally died of a broken heart.

Jesus said He would rise from the dead, so they buried His body in a tomb guarded by 16 crack Roman Soldiers.

If only one man fell asleep on guard duty, their whole group would be burned alive in their own clothing, so nobody even yawned.*

*"The Great Resurrection Hoax" by Josh McDowell, Liberation Tapes, P.O. Box 6044, Lubbock, Texas 79413.

The seal of Rome was placed on the huge stone blocking the grave entrance. If anyone broke that seal, the Roman F.B.I. and C.I.A. would hunt them down and then crucify them upside down.

No problem with the disciples... they were scared to death. Their leader was dead... the ***last*** thing the religious Jewish leaders wanted, was to hear of Jesus' resurrection.

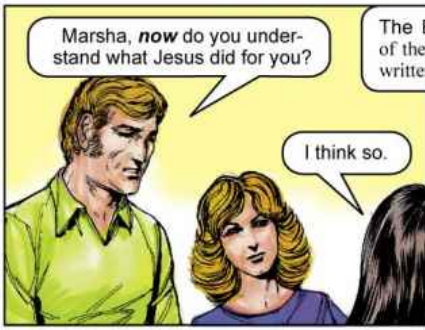
There was a great earthquake and an angel descended from heaven and rolled the one ton stone away. The Roman soldiers were so frightened, they became as dead men.**

Jesus arose from the dead, the tomb was empty, Satan was defeated! **Matt 28:4

Jesus was seen by over 500 witnesses!*

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep." I Cor. 15:3-6

When His cowering disciples saw Him, they were transformed into vibrant, aggressive men who were on fire for God!



The Bible says: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23) And again: "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one." (Rom. 3:10)

There **is** a way out. When you really mean business and confess to Him that you're a sinner and receive Jesus into your heart,
then the blood He shed on the cross washes away your sins, and on the day of judgment, when He sees the blood on you, He passes over you!
Marsha, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus...
And shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."* *Romans 10:9*
*Saved means you'll miss hell (the lake of fire) and will go to heaven!
It's a gift, Marsha. All you have to do is trust Him! Turn away from your sins and receive the Lord Jesus as your Saviour!
I've been so rotten. How could God possibly love me? Maybe I should try to clean up my life first.
No, Marsha, He *wants* you just as you are. *He* can clean you up later!
(Sniff)... Nobody loves me enough to die for me, but ***He*** did!
Oh, Jesus. I believe You died for me. Come into my heart and save me!
SOB
Please forgive my sins, Lord!
I'm so sorry!
It happened! I feel clean and beautiful. My life is changed! Tanya, I ***love*** you, I ***really*** do!
Am I *still* your Aunt Jemima?
No! You're my beautiful sister in Christ!
Shore nuff?
Yeah! In fact, *now* I even like your hog jowls and turnip greens!
THE END

Today sin has become a big joke... most people believe God is going to wink at their sins.

THE BIBLE SAYS... "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6:7

Marsha Gordon

Marsha accepted God's gift...

"... the gift of God is eternal life (in Heaven) through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

No one ever spoke more about hell or warned people to miss it like the Lord Jesus did...

When you stand before God on the day of judgement, as you surely will, and are not protected by the blood of Christ... He will look at you with His eyes blazing and say, "Depart from me, ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

...THE CHOICE IS YOURS

"... it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement." Hebrews 9:27

THE BIBLE SAYS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO HEAVEN!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

NOBODY ELSE CAN SAVE YOU. TRUST JESUS TODAY!

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

1. Admit you are a sinner. See Romans 3:10
2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent). See Acts 17:30
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried and rose from the dead. See Rom. 10:9-10
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Saviour. See Rom. 10:13

WHAT TO PRAY

Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His **precious blood** and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart and life as my personal Saviour.

If you trusted Jesus as your Saviour, you have just begun a wonderful new life with Him. Now:

1. Read your Bible (KJV) every day to get to know Jesus Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Be baptized, worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.
4. Tell others about Jesus Christ.

Here's help to grow as a new Christian! Read **The Next Step**, available at Christian bookstores or from Chick Publications.